

MARVEL

#10



AVENGERS®

MARK WAID · MIKE DEL MUNDO

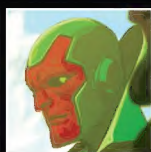


And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

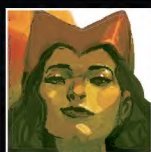
THE AVENGERS



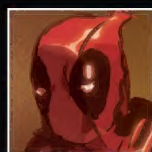
SUPERIOR
OCTOPUS



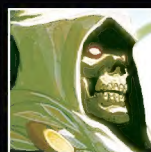
VISION



SCARLET
WITCH



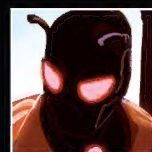
DEADPOOL



TASKMASTER



ODINSON



BLACK ANT

Steve Rogers, A.K.A. Captain America, was secretly transformed into a Hydra agent by a sentient Cosmic Cube. After months of scheming and manipulation, he staged a surprise attack during a moment of crisis as a play to take over the United States.

He rules the country with an iron fist--and quells resistance using his own team of deadly Hydra Avengers. Some have struck deals with Captain America, others serve out of loyalty, and others have no choice in the matter at all. But working together, they are a force to be reckoned with...

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The Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE.



THIS IS HARDLY
THE TEAM I WOULD
HAVE PUT TOGETHER.

BUT IT WAS OF CAPTAIN
AMERICA'S DESIGN, NOT MINE,
AND HE IS AMERICA'S NEW
LEADER. IT'S TOP COMMANDER.

FOR NOW.

INCLUDING MYSELF.
WE NUMBER SEVEN.
SIX IS OPTIMAL, I'VE
FOUND. SEVEN IS...

OCTOPUS!
YOU **SURE** YOU
DON'T NEED A
CO-PILOT?

...ONE TOO
MANY.

YES.
I AM
SURE.

I FIGURED!
I WAS JUST
TRYING TO START A
CONVERSATION!

DON'T.

SUE
ME.

DEADPOOL IS A
BUFFOONISH...
CHATTERBOX, AS
THE HOI POLLOI
MIGHT SAY.

A MERCENARY WITH A HEALING FACTOR SO RAPID THAT EJECTING HIM AT FULL SPEED INTO THE MOUNTAINS **BELOW** WOULD PROVIDE ME NO REAL SATISFACTION.



DUDE, YOU SMELL LIKE **GOATS**. IS IT YOUR **BREATH**? OH, MY GOD, DO YOU **EAT GOATS**?



ODINSON USED TO BE KNOWN AS **THOR** BEFORE SOME FALL FROM GRACE, ABOUT WHICH I HAVE NOT BEEN **INFORMED**.



nay.



ATHEISTIC AS I MAY BE BY **NATURE**, I BELIEVE HE TRULY IS A GOD OF **THUNDER**. LIKE **DEADPOOL**, HE IS HERE OUT OF LOYALTY TO CAPTAIN AMERICA.

TASKMASTER IS OBVIOUSLY LOYAL TO **NO ONE** AND **NOTHING** OTHER THAN **MONEY**.



HIS "PHOTOGRAPHIC REFLEXES" COME AND GO, BUT THEY ALLOW HIM TO FLAWLESSLY MIMIC AND MEMORIZE ANY PHYSICAL SKILL HE WITNESSES, FROM CONCERT PIANO TO KALARIPAYATTU.

THEY ALSO THREATEN THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THOSE COMBAT SKILLS I HAVE DEVELOPED FOR MYSELF. THIS IS ONLY MARGINALLY TOLERABLE.

BLACK ANT IS YET ANOTHER SIZE-CHANGER WITH **NO IMAGINATION**.



ALTERNATELY, HE CAN SIMPLY BOX AN EARDRUM OR TWO AND CALL IT A DAY.

CRETIN.

A MAN WHO CAN SHRINK TO SUBATOMIC SIZE AND SPIN **QUARKS** IS A MAN WHO CAN CHANGE THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF **NATURE** ON AN ALMOST **COSMIC-CUBE** LEVEL.

AND THEN THERE ARE THE **SYNTHETOID** AND THE **SORCERESS**, NOW EMERGING FROM THE REAR CABIN.

WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE **SCARLET WITCH**, COMMANDS **MAGIC**, AND I AM TOLD THAT A **DEMON** SYMPATHETIC TO HYDRA'S METHODS CURRENTLY COMMANDS **HER**.

I WAS **RIGHT**. THERE SEEMS TO BE A BIT OF **VIBRATION** IN THE ENGINES.



THE VISION CAME
PRE-RECRUITED,
ALREADY ON THE
AVENGERS' MOST
RECENT ROSTER.

HOWEVER,
EVERYTHING IS
FINE WITH THE
MAIN THRUSTER.

I
BET.

THEIR TRANSPARENT
LUST FOR ONE
ANOTHER IS SO
FLAGRANT THAT
IT'S ALMOST
ENTERTAINING.

PLEASE, BOYS.
A DEMON WHO
BARGAINS FOR SOULS
IS PARTICULARLY
SENSITIVE TO
CONSENT
ISSUES.

VISION WAS
THE MOST
DIFFICULT
AVENGER
TO RECRUIT.

INITIALLY, HE
WAS *OPPOSED*
TO CAPTAIN
AMERICA'S NEW
STATUS QUO.

UNTIL HE WAS
REPROGRAMMED
TO DESTROY SUCH
ERRANT THOUGHTS...

PLEASE...
WE'RE ALL IN
DANGER...

...PLEASE...

...LET ME
OUT...

...OR AT LEAST
SEAL THEM AWAY.



VISION, I WAS UNDER THE BELIEF THAT YOU AND WANDA HAD PARTED WAYS YEARS AGO.



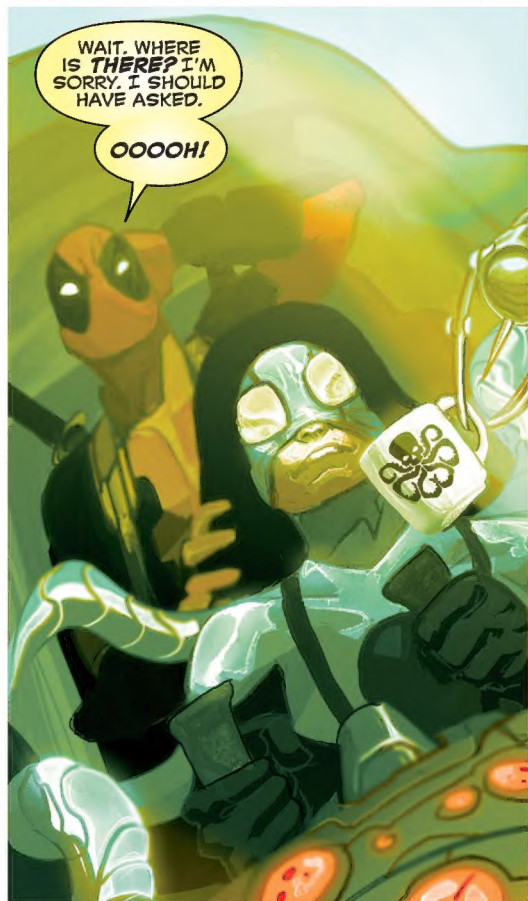
WE LIVE IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD, MY FRIEND.

ONLY NOW DO I REALIZE WHAT OURS HAS BEEN MISSING.



ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE--

THANKFULLY, YES.



WAIT. WHERE IS **THERE**? I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE ASKED.

OOOOH!



IS THAT A **SWISS CHALET**? SHOULD I HAVE BROUGHT MY **SKIS**?

SHOULD I HAVE LEARNED **HOW TO SKI**?

SHOULD I BE SALVATING FOR SOME HOT CHOCOLATE FULL OF LITTLE BITTY MARSHMALLOWS?



"I WILL REPEAT THIS FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEADPOOL, WHO UNSURPRISINGLY DID NOT LISTEN TO ME *ONCE* OVER THE LAST 6,000 MILES."




"IN ORDER TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM A RUMORED ALIEN INVASION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SHEATHED THE EARTH INSIDE A BARRIER THAT PRECLUDES ENTRY OR *EXIT*."



AN
ENDEAVOR THAT
MASSIVE REQUIRES
NOT ONLY A MAIN
INSTALLATION--

--BUT A NETWORK
OF AUTOMATED SIGNAL-
BOOST OUTPOSTS STATIONED
WORLDWIDE AT REGULAR
INTERVALS.



EVIDENTLY,
SOMEONE DOESN'T
CARE FOR THAT
ARRANGEMENT.

THE OUTPOST
IN *UZBEKISTAN*
SUFFERED A SIMILAR
FATE TO *THIS* ONE
YESTERDAY, WITH
TWO IMPORTANT
DIFFERENCES.

WHICH
WOULD
BE...?



WHOEVER
DID THIS IS STILL
HERE.

AND THEY
WILL HAVE TO
ANSWER TO THE
AVENGERS.

THE BLAST
TOOK OUT THE
NORTH SECTION OF
THE INSTALLATION, BUT
THERE IS FAR MORE
HIDDEN INSIDE THE
MOUNTAIN.

HAND-TO-
HAND PAIRS WITH
SPECIALISTS. VISION,
YOU AND DEADPOOL
MOVE **EAST**.

TASKMASTER,
YOU AND BLACK
ANT GO **WEST**.



SOUTH BELONGS TO
THE WITCH, ODINSON
AND **MYSELF**.

YOU HAVE
COMMUNICATION
EARBUDS. USE THEM
FREQUENTLY.



HEY! I
DON'T HAVE
ONE!

YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO SAY
THAT ANYONE
WISHES TO
HEAR.

VISION, FEEL
FREE TO USE
HIM AS A HUMAN
SHIELD.



WELL,
LET'S GO!
FOR A PAYING
GIG LIKE THIS, I
GIVE 100%.

ANY MERC
WHO WANTS THE
NEXT JOB CAN'T BE
SEEN SLACKING ON
THE **CURRENT** ONE.
THAT SAID, ANT...

...YOU
FIRST.





OKAY, I'M
NOT COMPLETELY
SOLD ON
THIS PLAN.

I HAVE
FAITH THAT
OCTOPUS ISN'T
SENDING US TO
OUR DOOM.

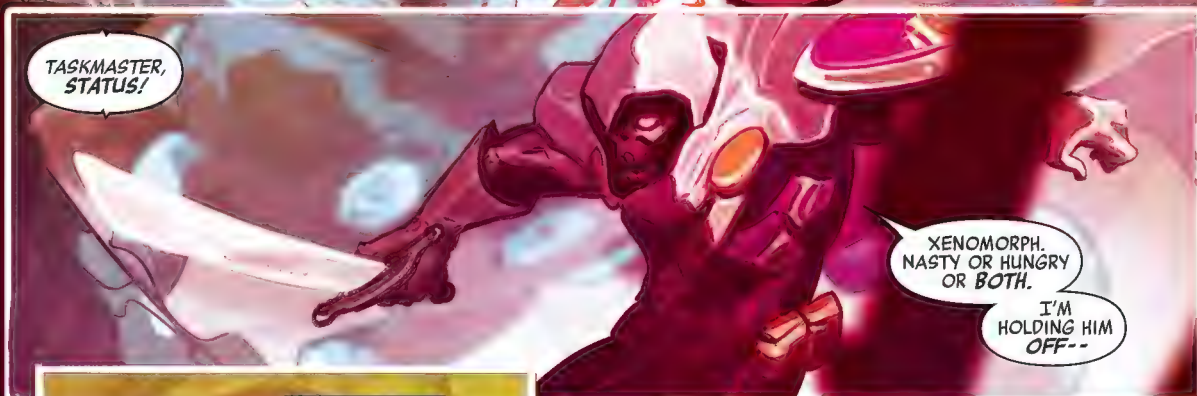
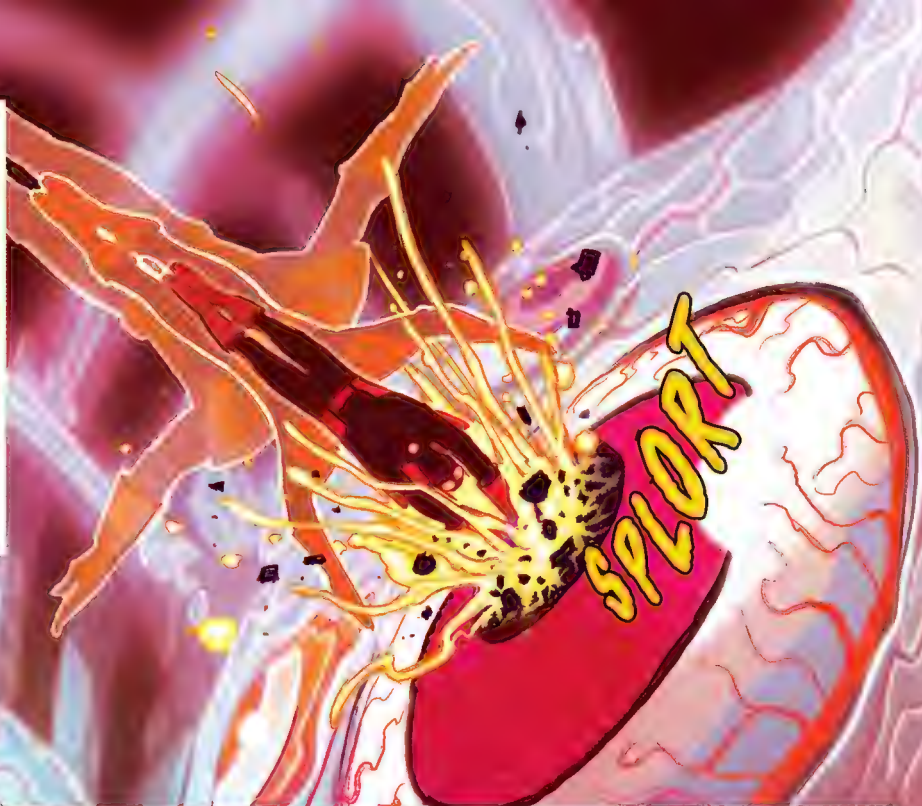
REMEMBER, WE
DON'T HAVE TO
LIKE ONE ANOTHER
TO *TRUST* ONE
ANOTHER.

SHIT!

HOLY
GOD--!

THREAT
DETECTED,
OCK!

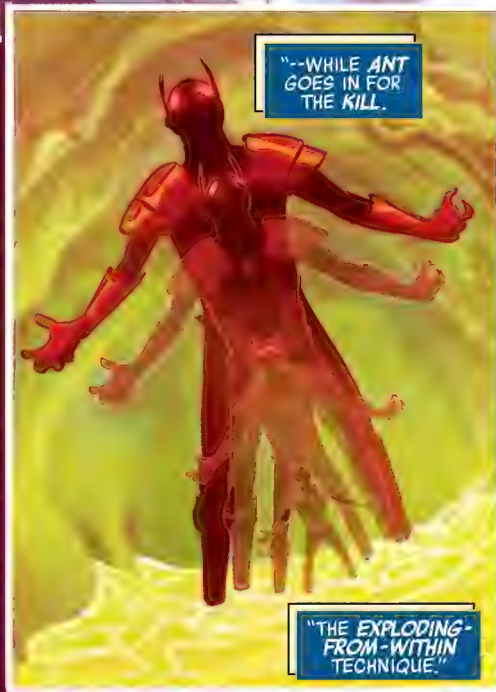
WE'LL LET
YOU KNOW
IF WE NEED
BACKUP!



TASKMASTER,
STATUS!

XENOMORPH.
NASTY OR HUNGRY
OR BOTH.

I'M
HOLDING HIM
OFF--



"--WHILE ANT
GOES IN FOR
THE KILL.

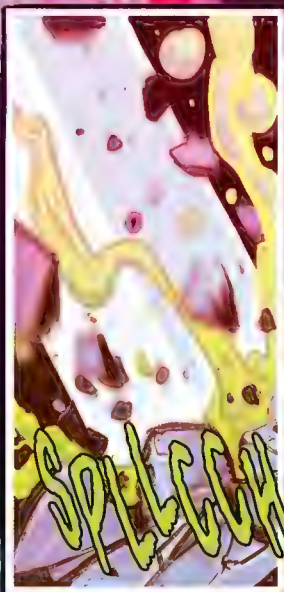
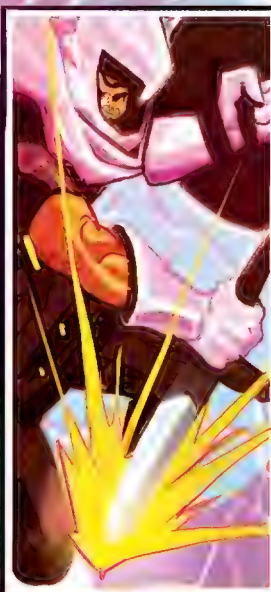
"THE EXPLODING-
FROM-WITHIN
TECHNIQUE."



STICKY.
VERY
STICKY.

WAIT. WAIT/
HIS SKIN
WON'T--

--IT WON'T
RUPTURE--!



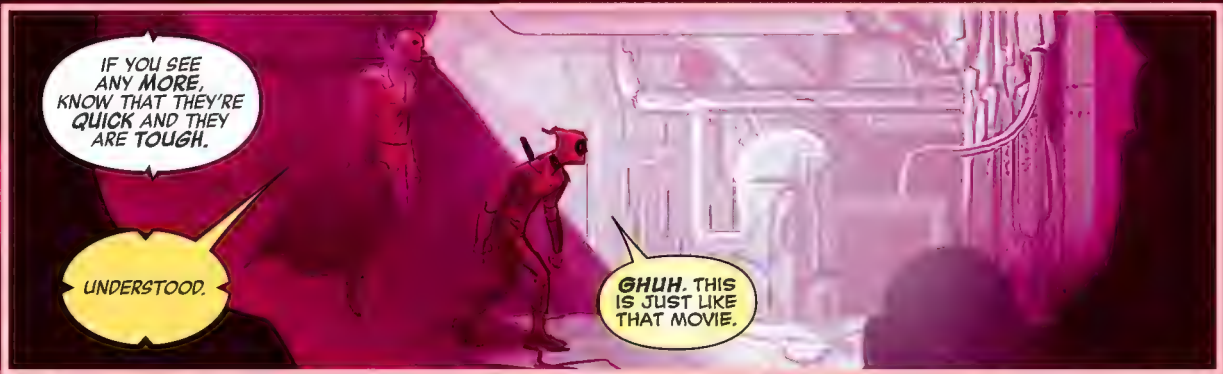
EEYAAH!

THE STINK IS UNREAL... BUT NICE WORK. THIS THING IS DEAD.

AVENGERS, DID YOU GET THAT?

EEYYAAH!

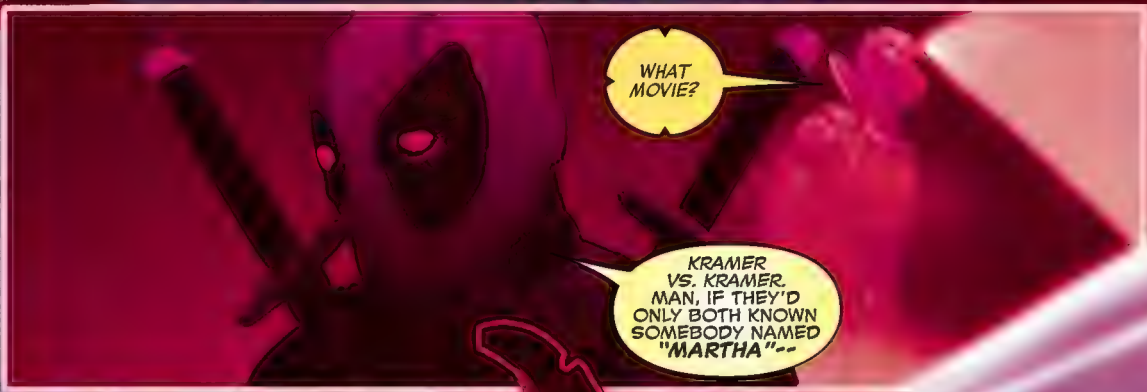
AVENGERS,
DID YOU GET
THAT?



IF YOU SEE ANY MORE, KNOW THAT THEY'RE QUICK AND THEY ARE TOUGH.

UNDERSTOOD.

GHUH. THIS IS JUST LIKE THAT MOVIE.



WHAT MOVIE?

KRAMER VS. KRAMER. MAN, IF THEY'D ONLY BOTH KNOWN SOMEBODY NAMED "MARTHA"--



--MMPPHH!



CONFIRMED: THE FIRST ALIEN WAS NOT UNIQUE.

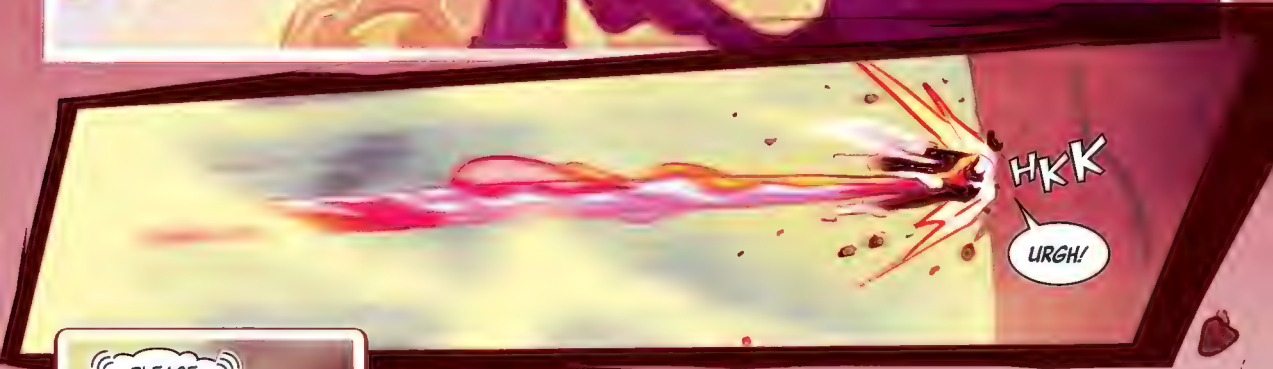
TWO MORE IN THE MACHINE ROOM.







THAT'S
SOMETHING I
WOULDN'T MIND
HEARING MORE
OFTEN.



HKK

URGH!



PLEASE
STOP. WE
MEAN YOU NO
HARM.

WE CAME
HERE EARTH CYCLES
AGO, EVALUATING YOUR
RACE IN SECRET TO
JUDGE YOU WORTHY
OF OUR *GIFTS*.
NOW WE ARE
TRAPPED HERE--
UNABLE TO RETURN
TO OUR PEOPLE.

OUR
ATTEMPTS TO
REMOVE THE BARRIER
ABOVE ARE THUS
UNDERSTANDABLE,
YES?

WE WISH ONLY
TO BE WITH OUR
LOVED ONES SO
FAR AWAY.



WE WISH
ONLY TO GO
HOME.

HELP US...
AND WE WILL GRANT
YOU IMMEASURABLE
POWER AND RESOLVE TO
DO *GOOD* FOR YOUR
FELLOW MAN. ONLY
GOOD.



DID ANY OF
YOU HEAR...?
NO?

TELEPATHIC...
THEY COMMUNICATE
THROUGH TOUCH
TELEPATHICALLY...

I *KNEW*
I HEARD VOICES!
MINE WEREN'T REAL
CLEAR! WHAT DID
YOURS SAY?

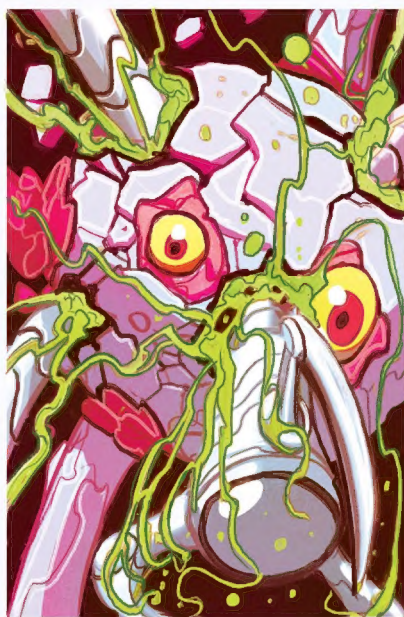


...

THAT THEY ARE
HERE TO *CLEANSE*
THIS PLANET AND THAT
THEY WILL NOT STOP
UNTIL HUMANITY IS
EXTINCT.

ASSEMBLE!







YOU SEEM BOTHERED.

I HAVE JUST PARTICIPATED IN THE SLAUGHTER OF SENTIENT CREATURES.

NO MATTER HOW DESTRUCTIVE AND DEADLY WERE THEY...THAT IS A LINE I AM NEVER EAGER TO CROSS.

YOU DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY, ODINSON.

THIS IS WHAT YOUR FRIEND, THE CAPTAIN, WOULD WANT.



HYDRA LACKEYS WILL BE DISPATCHED TO CLEAN UP. NOW, BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.

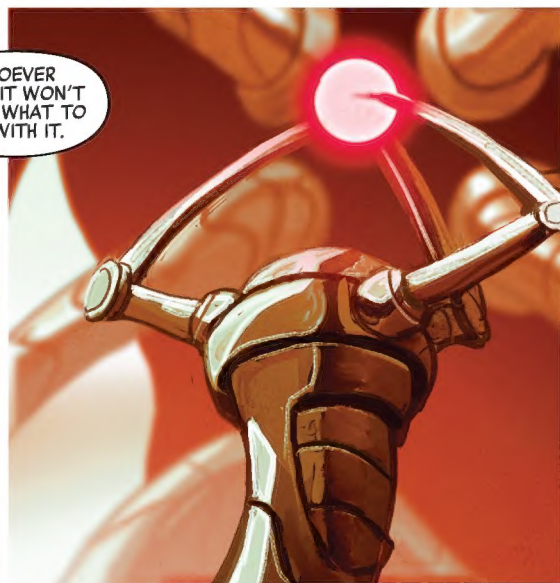
IS EVERYONE PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR?

I SHATTERED A PERFECTLY GOOD *SWORD*.



LOOKS LIKE I LOST ONE OF MY *PYM PARTICLE* CONTAINERS IN THE CHAOS. NO BIG.

WHOEVER FINDS IT WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.



I GOTTA SAY... WE DID PRETTY GOOD WORK HERE.

YOU FOLLOWED MY ORDERS, WE FOUGHT AS A TEAM AND WE SUPPORTED EACH OTHER *DESPITE* OUR PERSONAL DIFFERENCES.

AS TASKMASTER LIKES TO SAY, WE DON'T HAVE TO *LIKE* ONE ANOTHER...



...TO *TRUST* ONE ANOTHER.

NEXT: ASSEMBLY REQUIRED!

NEXT



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